

**Testimony
Vincent Susco
Connecticut Water Works Association
Before the
Planning & Development Committee
March 1, 2013**

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) *opposes* Section 8 of 965, AN ACT CONCERNING CHANGES TO MUNICIPAL REVENUE COLLECTION STATUTES.

This provision subjects a municipality's decision to waive property taxes and interest on personal property used to furnish water supplies to approval by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the consent of the Attorney General's Office.

Although it is unclear why the state should have a role in this decision, we are concerned that the bill opens the door to subject municipal water departments to property taxation. This would significantly increase costs for municipalities in providing water to their customers. Under current law, personal and real property used to supply water to customers in the town in which the property is located is exempt from property taxation. Allowing OPM and the Attorney General's Office to disapprove this arrangement would result in a de facto tax on municipal water customers.

It is unclear what situation this provision is attempting to address. However, it clearly interferes with home rule and we therefore urge its rejection.

The Connecticut Water Works Association represents private, municipal and regional water companies throughout Connecticut.

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